

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 INR-07 EB-08 SSO-00 /046 W
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R 080452Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7440
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USINT BAGHDAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 1225

FOR THE SECRETARY, UNDER SEC HABIB AND NEA ASST
SEC ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, XF, US
SUBJECT: PROPOSAL FOR VISIT OF HIGH-LEVEL USG OFFICIAL TO
GULF/PENINSULA AREA

REF: DOHA 295

1. I BELIEVE THAT GOK WOULD, OF COURSE, WELCOME HIGH-
LEVEL USG OFFICIAL VISITOR AND RECEIVE HIM WITH USUAL
GENEROUS ARAB HOSPITALITY. HE COULD EXPECT TO HEAR FROM
GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP FIRM EXPRESSION OF THEIR VIEWS IN
SUPPORT OF PLO ATTENDANCE AT GENEVA CONFERENCE AND POSSIBLY
ALSO SOME GRATUITOUS COMMENT AND ADVICE ON FINANCIAL
MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST, PARTICULARLY FROM FINMIN
AL-ATEEQI.

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2. ONE IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION IN THE SCHEDULING OF SUCH
A HIGH-LEVEL VISIT IS THE QUESTION OF TIMING. SINCE POLICY
WITH RESPECT TO MANY MATTERS OF INTEREST TO KUWAIT AND
OTHER GULF/PENINSULA STATES, I.E., PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION
AT GENEVA, ENERGY AND ARMS SALES, ETC., IS CURRENTLY IN STAGE
OF DEVELOPMENT, AN EARLY OFFICIAL VISITOR TO THE AREA MIGHT
NOT BE IN A POSITION TO SPEAK AUTHORITATIVELY ON THESE

SUBJECTS. A VISIT AT A LATER STAGE--IN THE FALL AFTER RAMADAN--COULD HAVE MORE SUBSTANTIVE CONTENT. A HIGH-LEVEL USG OFFICIAL VISITING AT THAT TIME MIGHT ALSO BE ABLE TO SEEK GULF/PENINSULA SUPPORT FOR CERTAIN POLICY COURSES ON WHICH US ADMINISTRATION WILL HAVE DECIDED BY THEN.

3. IF VISIT IS TO BE SOLELY FOR COSMETIC PURPOSES, NAMELY TO REMEDY FEELING OF SMALLER GULF STATES THAT US HAS IGNORED THEM, THEN PERHAPS IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO UNDERTAKE THE VISIT NOW RATHER THAN LATER, ALTHOUGH A POTENTIAL HIGH-LEVEL VISITOR MIGHT BE TOO INVOLVED IN THE POLICY-MAKING PROCESS TO SPARE THE NECESSARY TIME. IF THE VISIT IS FOR COSMETIC PURPOSES, THE VISITOR SHOULD BE A CABINET-LEVEL OFFICIAL OR HIGHER (VICE PRESIDENT) TO HAVE APPROPRIATE IMPACT. HOWEVER, WHILE SUCH A COSMETIC VISIT MIGHT BE SUITABLE FOR KUWAIT AT THIS TIME, IT MAY NOT BE FOR OTHER GULF STATES SUCH AS BAHRAIN AND OMAN WITH WHOM WE HAVE IMPORTANT BILATERAL ISSUES OUTSTANDING.

4. CABINET OFFICIAL WHO WOULD PROBABLY BE IN BEST POSITION TO MAKE USEFUL VISIT TO KUWAIT NOW WOULD BE, IN MY OPINION, TREASURY SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL. GOK, PARTICULARLY FINMIN AL-ATEEQI, HAS KEEN AND CONTINUING INTEREST IN US INVESTMENT SITUATION AND CLIMATE AND WOULD BE ANXIOUS TO MEET NEW TREASURY SECRETARY (ATEEQI WAS VERY PLEASED WITH RELATIONSHIP HE HAD DEVELOPED WITH FORMER TREASURY SECRETARY SIMON). INTEREST IN INVESTMENT PROBABLY ALSO EXISTS IN THOSE OTHER OIL RICH GULF STATES. ANOTHER SUBJECT OF IMPORTANCE TO US WHICH MIGHT BE DISCUSSED IS ONE RELATING

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TO ASSISTANCE TO EGYPT.

5. IN SUM, WHILE COSMETIC VISIT IN NEAR FUTURE TO DEMONSTRATE US INTEREST IN SMALL GULF STATES WOULD REAP CERTAIN BENEFITS AS SUGGESTED BY AMBASSADOR PAGANELLI, KUWAITI LEADERS WOULD PROBABLY PREFER A VISIT WHICH WOULD SHED LIGHT ON POLICY COURSES DEVELOPED BY PRESIDENT CARTER'S ADMINISTRATION. SUCH A SUBSTANTIVE VISIT WOULD PROBABLY BE MORE APPROPRIATELY SCHEDULED FOR LATER IN THE YEAR.

MAESTRONE

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Reason:
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